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GHORLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Medical Officer of Health's

REPORT,

1918.

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CHORLEY,

MAY, 1919.

TO THE CHORLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

Looking back upon the long period during which I have had the honour of serving your Council and that of your predecessors, the Chorley Rural Sanitary Authority, I am struck with the very different attitude that is now held by the public in regard to the health and well-being of the people than was the case when I was first appointed Medical Officer of Health.

Progress has been very gradual, but the revelations of the recruiting office and the war generally have opened our eyes to the fact that however the spirit of the people has not deteriorated, their physical condition has not received the intelligent care which it ought to have done. Great work has been done since 1875 in many ways. Good and sufficient water has been supplied to the greater portions of your district. Many of your townships have been systematically sewered, and Sewage Disposal Works erected; the scavenging of the more populous townships has been undertaken, and generally the condition of your district is very much improved in the last forty years, and as a rural district I consider that at least as much has been accomplished by you as in any other local Authority of similar size and character.

But the awakened conscience of the nation demands much more, and I am sure that your Council will rise to the occasion and keep abreast with other Sanitary Authorities in the future.

The Housing question, Maternity and Child Welfare, etc., are matters that will require all the attention and sympathy, which I am convinced, will not be lacking on your part.

I very much regret that the Report of the Vital Statistics of the Chorley Rural District for 1918 are not at all satisfactory.

As you will see, the number of Births registered during the year has only very slightly exceeded the number of Deaths amongst the Resident Civil population of your District.

If the Deaths of Residents engaged in Military Service had been taken into consideration, the Death rate would have been considerably higher than the Birth rate. This deplorable state of matters has been due to the gradually diminishing Birth rate, and to the two epidemics of Influenza, which occurred in the summer and autumn of 1918, accounting for more than one quarter of the whole number of Deaths occurring during the year.

**BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE.**—The number of Births registered as occurring in your District in 1918 was three hundred and fifty-five (355). Allowing for the transfer of certain Births from or to other districts, the number of Births to Residents in your District in 1918 was three hundred and fifty-seven (357), of which one hundred and seventy-nine (179) were Males and one hundred and sixty-six (166) were Females.



Twelve (12) of the Births were illegitimate, that is to say a little more than three per cent.

The estimate of the total population of the Chorley Rural District during 1918 has been estimated by the Registrar General at 21,898.

The Birth rate calculated upon this estimated population is 16.3 per thousand per annum, as compared with 16.5 per thousand in 1917, and an average of 22.0 per thousand in the previous decade.

The township of Coppull yielded more than 36 per cent. of the total number of Births occurring in the Rural District, and the Birth rate for Coppull has not decreased at the same rate as it has in the majority of the townships under your jurisdiction.

The Birth rate in 1918 for England and Wales, as computed by the Registrar General, was 17.7 per thousand, that is to say 1.4 per thousand higher than the rate obtaining in the Chorley Rural District.

**DEATHS AND DEATH RATES.**—Three hundred and twenty-five (325) Deaths were registered as occurring in your District during 1918. Twenty-two (22) of these Deaths were of persons not usually resident in the Chorley Rural District, and the Deaths of forty-seven (47) Residents occurred and were registered elsewhere.

The nett number of Deaths of Residents in 1918 was three hundred and fifty (350), of which one hundred and seventy-one (171) were of Males and one hundred and seventy-nine (179) of Females.

The Registrar General's estimate of the CIVIL POPULATION of the Chorley Rural District for 1918 is 19,544, from which I calculate the Death rate at 17.8 per thousand per annum. This Death rate is 4.7 per thousand higher than that estimated for 1917, and 4.3 per thousand in excess of the average Death rate of the preceding decade (1908-1917).

As I will show in my remarks upon Influenza, this increased Death rate in 1918 has been almost if not entirely due to the epidemics of Influenza.

The numbers of Deaths of Residents in each Quarter were as follows :

| 1st Quarter. | 2nd Quarter. | 3rd Quarter. | 4th Quarter. | Year. |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| 79           | ...          | 62           | ...          | 60    |
| ...          | ...          | ...          | ...          | 149   |
| ...          | ...          | ...          | ...          | 350   |

The number of Deaths occurring in the last Quarter of 1918 amounted to over 42 per cent. of the whole number of Deaths occurring during the year.

The Death rate throughout England and Wales in 1918 has been estimated at 17.6 per thousand, and the Death rate of your District closely approximates this estimate.

In Table I. the Deaths of Residents are arranged under the causes to which they were due, the ages at which they occurred, and the sub-district in which the persons resided. The total number of Deaths occurring in each of the Public Institutions in your district are also inserted.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The ratio between the Deaths of Infants under one year of age, and the number of Births was in 1918 one hundred and six (106) Deaths to one thousand (1,000) Births. In 1917 the Infantile Mortality was 116, and in 1916 125. The average for the decade 1908-1917 was 110, and for the previous decade 1898-1907 127.

There is a slight improvement in the Infantile Mortality, but not a sufficiently satisfactory one, when the Infantile Mortality for England and Wales for 1918 was only 97 in 1918.

The Infantile Mortalities for the various sub-districts were as follows:—

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Chorley sub-district | 148 per thousand. |
| Brindle „            | Nil. „            |
| Croston „            | 86 „              |
| Leyland „            | 108 „             |
| Rivington „          | 63 „              |

The Infantile Mortality for Chorley sub-district, excluding Coppull, was only 38, whilst that for Coppull alone was 169 per one thousand Births.

The high Infantile Mortality in Coppull is in my opinion largely due to the deficiency in reasonably good houses for the working population, and more especially in houses of sufficient size to accommodate large families, to the consequent overcrowding in many cases more than one family in a house, to the bad state of repairs in a large number of houses owing to the lack of workmen during the war, and to the more or less general indifference and ignorance of the people themselves.

Though, I believe, the work of the Health Visitor has been appreciated, and of great service in Coppull, yet there has been considerable difficulty in removing prejudices from the minds of the people, and it will require great patience and perseverance to obtain more satisfactory results than have hitherto been obtained.

I recommend the recently-formed Maternity and Child Welfare and Housing Committees to consider this question, as it is very evident that the Infantile Mortality of Coppull must be reduced.

In Table II. I give the numbers of Deaths of Infants under one year of age under the headings of Cause and Age, in weeks and months.

EPIDEMIC DEATH RATE.—The Epidemic Death rate for the year was 1.07 per thousand per annum. This rate was higher than the rate obtaining in 1917, viz., 0.49, and slightly in excess of the average for the ten years (1908-1917), viz., 1.01.

The increased Zymotic Death rate was due to an epidemic of Measles, which caused ten (10) Deaths. The other fatal cases of Zymotic Diseases were: Seven (7) from Diarrhœa, three (3) from Whooping Cough, and one (1) each from Typhoid Fever and Diphtheria. Thirteen (13) of the twenty-two (22) fatal cases of Epidemic Disease occurred in Coppull.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—During 1918 two hundred and sixty-two (262) cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases (excluding Tuberculous Diseases) were notified to me, of which two hundred and twenty-four (224) were cases of Measles, twenty-five (25) of Scarlet Fever, four (4) of Diphtheria, six (6) of Typhoid Fever, and three (3) of Erysipelas.

From Table III. in which the notifications of each disease are arranged under the respective townships in which the cases occurred, you will see that more than two-thirds of the notifications came from Coppull.

For the first year since the coming into force of the Compulsory Notification of Diseases Act, I did not receive a single report of an Infectious case from Whittle-le-Woods, and from four other townships no cases were notified to me. Influenza and Acute Pneumonia were not compulsorily notifiable until 1919.

MEASLES.—Cases of this disease were notified in every month, except July, but the disease became epidemic in Coppull and surrounding townships at the latter end of September, and was very prevalent there until the middle of November. In addition to the cases notified by the Medical Practitioners, I received regular reports from the Health Visitor, and also the Head Teachers of the Elementary Schools in Coppull. I also made use of the services of the Health Visitor for the purpose of distributing leaflets and giving other advice during the continuance of the Epidemic.

The notification by the parents of cases of Measles was not carried out, though the public have been informed by advertisement and by leaflets that such duty is imposed upon them.

Ten (10) Deaths have resulted from this disease. As I am convinced that a large number of cases did not come to my knowledge, the case mortality of 4.4 per cent. of the notified cases is, in my opinion, much above the real facts.

SCARLET FEVER.—Only twenty-five (25) cases of Scarlet Fever were notified to me, compared with thirty one (31) in 1917, and an average of seventy-two (72) in the preceding ten years (1908-1917). Fifteen (15) of these cases occurred in Coppull, and six (6) in Anderton. The cases were generally of a mild type, and no Death occurred in your District from this disease.

Twenty-two (22), or 88 per cent. of the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and in three instances I considered that the child could be sufficiently isolated at home.

DIPHTHERIA.—Four (4) cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, as compared with seven (7) in 1917, and an average of twenty (20) in the previous ten years. None of these children died from this disease, but one Death from Diphtheria, occurring in Chorley Borough, has been transferred to Rivington sub-district, as the person usually resided there. Two (2) cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

ENTERIC FEVER.—There were six (6) notifications of Typhoid Fever in 1918, as compared with five (5) in 1917, and an average of ten (10) for the preceding decade.

Five (5) cases occurred in Coppull (four in one house), and the other was in the case of a Nurse at the Isolation Hospital. All the cases were treated at the Isolation Hospital, and no Death occurred.

The Death of a Resident of Clayton from Typhoid Fever, occurring outside the boundaries has been transferred to your district by the Registrar General.

INFLUENZA.—Including the Deaths from Influenza, transferred from other districts, Influenza has been responsible for ninety-three (93) Deaths in 1918, or 26.6 per cent. of the total number of Deaths of Residents. That is to say, more than one quarter of the total mortality of the District during the year has been caused by Influenza.

Only three (3) Deaths were attributed to Influenza during the first six months of 1918, whilst sixteen (16) fatal cases occurred in the third quarter, viz., in July twelve (12), in August three (3), and in September one (1), and in the last quarter seventy-four (74) Deaths from Influenza occurred, viz, in October twenty-four (24), November thirty-nine (39), and in December eleven (11).

In the third quarter of the year 25.8 per cent. of the total number of Deaths were ascribed to Influenza, whilst in the fourth quarter 46.2 per cent. were attributed to the same cause.

As has been observed in many other districts throughout the country there have been two distinct waves of Epidemic Influenza in the last six months of 1918. The first began early in July, reached its height towards the middle of that month, and subsided in the first fortnight in August.

An interval of about eight weeks, with very few cases occurred, but about the second week in October another and more serious Epidemic of Influenza commenced, and lasted severely until the first week in December, and then gradually declined. A third wave of Influenza commenced about the second week in February, 1919, and lasted for five or six weeks.

In the first Epidemic of 1918 the township of Coppull experienced the greatest severity, whilst in the second the inhabitants of the townships of Whittle-le-Woods and Euxton were the most seriously attacked, though the latter epidemic was more widely spread than the former, and very few townships escaped.

In addition to the Deaths directly ascribed to Influenza, I am convinced that a very considerable proportion of the Deaths certified as due to Pneumonia or Bronchitis were due to a preceding or concomitant attack of Influenza.



The Deaths from Influenza occurred in all the Age Groups, but it is to be noticed that the Mortality was much the greatest in people in the prime of life (between 25 and 45 years of age), about the same in adolescents (between 5 and 15 years), as in the groups between 45 and 65 years, whilst in young children and old people the mortality was much more moderate.

As Influenza was not compulsorily notifiable in 1918, I am not able to give you any figures as to the number of people attacked in either of the two epidemics, but from enquiries made by me from the Head Teachers of the Elementary Schools, etc., I ascertained that the second-epidemic was very wide spread, and that the number of people (both adults and children) attacked was very large; indeed, in more than one case, two or more deaths occurred in one house.

No general disinfection of the premises occupied by Influenza patients was instituted, but many of the schools which had been closed on account of Influenza, etc., were disinfected before they were re-opened.

Leaflets giving information and advice about Influenza were circulated throughout the district during the second epidemic.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.—During 1918 the closure of most of the schools in your Area was enforced by you, on my recommendation, more frequently than has hitherto been the case. The epidemic of Influenza in July, and more especially widespread in the last quarter of the year, was the chief cause of any recommending closure of the schools, but in a few instances closure was adopted on account of the prevalence of Measles.

Several of the Schools were closed for periods during both epidemics of Influenza, and in some cases, acting upon information received by me, I prolonged the closure, as the number of cases reported did not warrant the re-opening of the schools at the time determined upon.

The following is a list of the Schools closed, and the various periods of closure:—

| Schools.                         | Periods.   |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Heskin Pemberton's Grammar...    | July 12th to 19th  |
| Rivington Elementary ... ..      | 12th „ 19th  |
| Anderton St. Joseph's ... ..     | 12th „ 19th...Oct. 17th to Nov. 11th                               |
| Adlington and District Council . | 12th „ 19th... „ 17th „ „ 11th                                     |
| Coppull Moor ... ..              | 13th „ 19th... „ 14th „ „ 11th                                     |
| Coppull Chapel-lane ... ..       | 13th „ 19th... „ 14th „ „ 11th                                     |
| Coppull St. Oswald's ... ..      | 13th „ 19th... „ 14th „ „ 11th                                     |
| Charnock Richard ... ..          | 13th „ 19th... „ 18th „ „ 11th                                     |
| Bretherton Endowed ... ..        | ...Oct. 19th „ Nov. 4th  |
| Eccleston ... ..                 | ... „ 21st „ „ 4th   |
| Wheelton Council ... ..          | ...Nov. 4th „ „ 11th...Nov. 21st to Dec. 9th                       |
| Wheelton C.E. ... ..             | ... „ 4th „ „ 11th...Nov. 13th to 18th...<br>Nov. 29th to Dec. 9th |
| Whittle-le-Woods South Hill ...  | „ 4th „ „ 11th...Nov. 21st o Dec. 9th                              |



| Schools.                  | Periods.  |
|---------------------------|---|
| Whittle-le-Woods C.E. ... | .. Nov. 6th to Nov. 18th                          |
| Euxton St. Mary's ...     | ... ,, 6th ,, ,, 18th...Nov. 11th to<br>Dec. 20th |
| Clayton Green ...         | ... ,, 6th ,, ,, 18th                             |
| Brindle St. Joseph's ...  | ... ,, 6th ,, ,, 18th                             |
| Brindle C.E. ...          | ... ,, 11th ,, ,, 25th                            |
| Euxton Endowed ...        | ... ,, 11th ,, ,, 18th...Dec. 9th to Dec. 20th    |
| Hoghton... ..             | ... ,, 13th ,, ,, 25th... ,, 9th ,, ,, 20th       |
| Ulnes Walton ...          | ... ,, 26th ,, Dec. 20th                          |
| Heapey White Coppice...   | ...Dec. 11th ,, ,, 20th                           |

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.—Ten specimens of Sputum were sent to the Clinical Research Association for Bacteriological Examination in the cases of suspected Phthisis, Pulmonalis, or Diphtheria, seven of the former and three of the latter.

In no case did the Examination confirm the existence of the disease.

It is to be regretted that more use of this provision is not made by the Medical Practitioners throughout the District.

Provision has been made by the County Council both for the Bacteriological Examination and treatment of Venereal Diseases. I have no means of ascertaining how far this provision has been made use of, but I hope that advantage has been taken of this free examination and treatment, and that great benefit and complete cure of these very grave diseases will result.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Thirty-three (33) cases of Tuberculosis were notified to me during the year, two (2) of which were transferred cases having been previously notified in other districts.

Twenty-four (24) of these were cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and Nine (9) of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

With the exception of one case in which the age has not been ascertained, they may be grouped according to age under the following:—

|                            | 2<br>and<br>under<br>5 | 5<br>and<br>under<br>15 | 15<br>and<br>under<br>25 | 25<br>and<br>under<br>45 | 45<br>and<br>under<br>65 | 65<br>and<br>upwards | Totals |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... | ...                    | 2                       | 2                        | 13                       | 5                        | 1                    | 23     |
| Non-Pulmonary ,, ...       | 2                      | 3                       | 3                        | 1                        | ...                      | ...                  | 9      |
| Totals ... ..              | 2                      | 5                       | 5                        | 14                       | 5                        | 1                    | 32     |

Sixteen (16) of the Notified Cases were Males, and seventeen (17) Females.

The following were the sites of the disease in the Notified cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis:—

|         |     |     |     |     |   |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Glands  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Abdomen | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Hip     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

The occupations of the persons notified were as follows:—

|                                  |     |     |     |     | Pulmonary. | Non-Pulmonary. | Totals. |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|----------------|---------|
| Housewife                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3          | 1              | 4       |
| Soldier                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2          | ...            | 2       |
| Weaver                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2          | 1              | 3       |
| Winder                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2          | ...            | 2       |
| Navy                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1          | ...            | 1       |
| Domestic                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1          | ...            | 1       |
| Labourer                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1          | ...            | 1       |
| Gamekeeper                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1          | ...            | 1       |
| Grocer                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1          | ...            | 1       |
| Clerk                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1          | ...            | 1       |
| Pit Brow Man                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1          | ...            | 1       |
| Stonemason                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1          | ...            | 1       |
| Postman                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1          | ...            | 1       |
| Munition Works                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ...        | 1              | 1       |
| Farmer                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1          | ...            | 1       |
| Children                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ...        | 6              | 6       |
| No occupation or not ascertained | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5          | ...            | 5       |
| Total                            |     |     |     | 24  | ...        | 9              | 33      |

Nine (9) of these notified persons had the advantage of Sanatorium treatment during the year.

Two (2) persons died during 1918 from Phthisis Pulmonalis, and no notification of the disease had been received by me prior to the Death Certificate.

Fifteen (15) Residents of your District died from Tuberculous Diseases during 1918, from which I calculate the Tuberculosis Death rate of 0.76, and the Phthisis Death rate of 0.71 per thousand per annum.

Since I began to write this report I have been informed by the County Tuberculosis Officer that there has been a revision of the County Tuberculosis Scheme, and that Dr. Brunwin will now take charge of the Chorley Tuberculosis Dispensary in the place of Dr. Jessel, and that several of the townships in your district which had formerly been placed in other Tuberculosis areas are now transferred to the Chorley area, and patients in those townships can now be examined, etc., at the Chorley Dispensary. I consider this re-arrangement very desirable, and one affording your Medical Officer better means of information, etc., than was possible hitherto.

I am glad to say that Nurse Munro is remaining, however, as Tuberculosis Nurse.

**VENEREAL DISEASES.**—The County Council Scheme for combatting Venereal Diseases is in full operation, and it is to be hoped that the great advantages secured for all the inhabitants of the Administrative County of Lancashire will be made known everywhere, appreciated by the unfortunate sufferers from these very serious diseases, and made use of by them.

When it is fully recognised that a large proportion of the population—some say ten per cent.—are suffering from the acute, more remote, or hereditary effects of these diseases, that blindness, deafness, result from this cause more than from any other; that incapacitating, nervous diseases, and insanity filling our Hospitals and Asylums are in the greater proportion due to their after effects, and that the majority of the sufferers are innocent women and children, it is high time that the public should be educated to the situation, and that ignorance and secrecy should be dispelled.

The National Society for Combatting Venereal Diseases is actively engaged in propaganda work, and a Committee has been formed for that purpose in the Chorley Area. I hope, in a very short time, arrangements will be made for public meetings to be held and other means adopted to spread information and instruction amongst all classes of social workers, teachers, etc.

In the meantime I wish to add that the treatment of anyone suffering is gratuitous, and the identity of the individual applying for such treatment is not disclosed, so that there should be no hindrance to any person obtaining a complete cure if the disease be recent, or considerable amelioration, if of longer standing.

I shall be glad to supply any information to any person consulting me by letter or personally, in strict secrecy.

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**—The work of the Health Visitor has been carried on diligently during the year. She has visited houses in fifteen townships in which there are Infants and Young Children and given advice and instruction to the mothers. At frequent periods she reviews with me all the cases seen in the intervals, gives me details of each, informs me of any insanitary condition of the premises, and receives any directions that I think necessary.

I give a resume of the work done by her during the year.



| TOWNSHIPS.       | 1st Visit | 2nd Visit | 3rd Visit | 4th Visit | 5th Visit | 6th Visit | 7th Visit | 8th Visit | 9th Visit | 10th Visit | Further Visits | Visits for Measles | No Access | Totals |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------|--------|
| Anderton         | 5         | 4         | 4         | 6         | 4         | 8         | 13        | 11        | 8         | 4          | ...            | ...                | 5         | 72     |
| Coppull          | 123       | 104       | 100       | 92        | 86        | 88        | 84        | 84        | 95        | 96         | 817            | 155                | 103       | 2027   |
| Charnock Richard | 12        | 12        | 10        | 6         | 6         | 8         | 9         | 9         | 9         | 10         | 25             | 3                  | 1         | 119    |
| Clayton-le-Woods | 3         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 2         | 2         | 2         | 2         | 1         | 1          | ...            | ...                | 1         | 17     |
| Duxbury          | 1         | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | 1         | 3         | 3         | 3          | 5              | ...                | 1         | 17     |
| Euxton           | 22        | 16        | 17        | 10        | 10        | 6         | 11        | 11        | 10        | 7          | 5              | ...                | 2         | 121    |
| Eccleston        | 22        | 19        | 9         | 5         | 3         | 6         | 21        | 19        | 18        | 16         | 8              | 2                  | 8         | 156    |
| Heath Charnock   | 11        | 7         | 7         | 7         | 12        | 13        | 9         | 7         | 3         | 1          | ...            | ...                | 11        | 88     |
| Heskin           | 10        | 10        | 5         | 5         | 5         | 5         | 5         | 5         | 5         | 2          | 2              | 10                 | ...       | 69     |
| Heapey           | ...       | 2         | 2         | 4         | 3         | 2         | 2         | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...            | ...                | 1         | 16     |
| Mawdesley        | 10        | 7         | 10        | 9         | 10        | 20        | 14        | 12        | 8         | ...        | ...            | ...                | 2         | 102    |
| Ulnes Walton     | 7         | 4         | 2         | 2         | 4         | 12        | 11        | 12        | 6         | ...        | ...            | ...                | 1         | 61     |
| Whittle-le-Woods | 18        | 10        | 4         | 6         | 14        | 20        | 15        | 14        | 9         | 5          | ...            | ...                | 6         | 121    |
| Wheelton         | 2         | 3         | 7         | 10        | 9         | 7         | 4         | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...            | ...                | 2         | 44     |
| Welch Whittle    | 3         | 3         | 1         | 2         | 1         | ...       | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1          | 1              | 2                  | 1         | 18     |
| Totals           | 249       | 202       | 173       | 165       | 169       | 197       | 201       | 190       | 176       | 146        | 863            | 172                | 145       | 3048   |

Two-thirds of the Visits have been made in Coppull, in which township more than one-third of the registered Births occurred, and in which the Health Visitor lives. I consider that Coppull requires her services more than any other township in your district, and a greater amount of good work is being done by concentrating her attention more on this township than would be the case if she visited more frequently houses situated in the remoter townships in your district.

The County Council has not yet fully developed their scheme for carrying out Maternity and Child Welfare, but when that is done probably you will think it will be better to transfer the whole of this work to the County as being more economical and perhaps more efficient for the whole of your district.

The question of milk supply to infants and nursing and expectant mothers has been under your consideration during the year. You have adopted scales for the free or assisted supply in such cases, and priority certificates have been served upon farmers to supply milk in such cases, as I have recommended for your consideration.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee has been formed in compliance with the directions of the Local Government Board, and I hope periodical meetings of this Sub-Committee will be held so that further action may be taken with the view to the promotion of the welfare of mothers and children. The statistics given in other parts of this report plainly show that a great deal in this direction is required.

Recent orders issued by the Local Government Board have very much widened the scope of the action that may be taken by a Local authority for the benefit of expectant and nursing mothers and young children, and a grant of 50 per cent. of the expenses entailed may be recovered from the Government provided the work undertaken receives the sanction of that Board, and is satisfactorily carried out. This work includes better provision for attendance upon women in Hospital or otherwise at the time of confinement, Hospital treatment for children, nursing of children, Home Helps, etc. I hope that this subject will receive the careful attention of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, and subsequently of the Council at an early date.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—There has been no alteration in the water supply of your district during 1918.

In Coppull, the water supply from the Liverpool Corporation, through Standish Local Board, has been throughout the year inadequate, and only during certain periods of the day. The scheme for the supply of Coppull from Thirlmere, so long delayed on account of the war, has now received the sanction of the Local Government Board. A loan is being negotiated, and tenders for the work have been entered into.



In other townships, where the supply of water has been considered insufficient or not wholesome, notices have been served upon the owners of the property concerned to provide a proper supply of water.

SCAVENGING.—The efficient scavenging of the district has been one of the greatest difficulties experienced by your Officials during the year.

There have been numerous complaints made by the householders in the townships in which the scavenging has been carried out by contractors, and these complaints have not been trivial and unreasonable.

On the other hand the contractors have been so short of labour, and the cost of hiring men and horses has been so heavy that it has been very difficult for them to carry out as much work as they have done. I think the general subject of scavenging throughout your district should be well discussed, and some plan adopted so that this very urgent and necessary work should be thoroughly done, and not be in such arrear as it is at present.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.—Upon the whole this work has been carried out satisfactorily during the year, and all cases of blocked drains and sewers have been attended to as soon as possible after report to your Officials.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING.—The same remarks that I made in my report for 1917 may be made in this report.

Since early in 1919 the systematic inspection of houses has been recommenced, and many defects have been found.

In 1918 notices were served upon the owners of property which were reported to your Officials as out of repair or were discovered by your Sanitary Inspector in his usual rounds, but again great difficulty and delay have been experienced in getting labour and material to repair these defects by the owners.

No dwelling houses have been erected during 1918, and closing orders have been issued in a few instances.

The whole country, I am glad to say, is now considering the question of the housing of the working classes, and the Government is insisting upon the provision of houses sufficient to accommodate the population of each district adequately and in such a manner as to promote the health and comfort of the people and the ordinary decencies of life.



There are many houses in your district that are at the present time so much out of repair that, under ordinary circumstances, they would have been recommended to you for closure unless properly attended to, and in addition there is an insufficiency of houses of any sort in some of the townships.

You have appointed a Housing Committee, and have delegated the members of that Committee to visit and enquire into the need for houses in the various areas in the rural district.

The Parish Councils in several of the townships are quite alive to the necessity for the provision of more houses in their townships.

It is very necessary that a scheme of housing should be proceeded with as soon as possible so as to obtain Government sanction, and the Government grant following such sanction.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—The County Police have taken samples of food and drugs during 1918 in eighty-four (84) instances. Fifty-six (56) of these were in the case of milk, and twenty-eight (28) of other articles of food or drugs.

One prosecution for selling milk deficient in fats was instituted, but the case was dismissed by the Magistrates.

Your Inspector has been fully occupied during the year in the routine duties and other work committed to his charge. The abnormal condition of the country has rendered the carrying out of his duties unusually difficult. Table IV., which has been compiled by him, details a portion of the work in which he has been engaged.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES A. HARRIS.

TABLE I.

Deaths of Residents, under Ages, Causes, and Sub-Districts.

| DISEASES.  | At all Ages. | Ages.         |                      |                      |                       |                        |                        |                        |                 | Chorley Sub-district. | Brindle Sub-district. | Croston Sub-district. | Leyland Sub-district. | Rivington Sub-district. | Deaths in Public Institutions. |                     |
|--|--------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
|  |              | Under 1 year. | 1 and under 2 years. | 2 and under 5 years. | 5 and under 15 years. | 15 and under 25 years. | 25 and under 45 years. | 45 and under 65 years. | 65 and upwards. |                       |                       |                       |                       |                         | Sana-torium.                   | Isolation Hospital. |
| Enteric Fever ...                                  | 1            | 3             | 4                    | 2                    | 1                     | 1                      | ...                    | ...                    | ...             | 8                     | ...                   | ...                   | 1                     | ...                     | ...                            | ...                 |
| Measles ...  | 10           | 2             | 1                    | ...                  | ...                   | ...                    | ...                    | ...                    | ...             | 1                     | ...                   | ...                   | 2                     | ...                     | ...                            | ...                 |
| Whooping Cough ...                                 | 3            | 1             | 1                    | ...                  | ...                   | ...                    | ...                    | ...                    | ...             | ...                   | ...                   | ...                   | ...                   | ...                     | ...                            | ...                 |
| Diphtheria ...                                     | 1            | 2             | 2                    | ...                  | ...                   | ...                    | ...                    | ...                    | ...             | ...                   | ...                   | ...                   | ...                   | ...                     | ...                            | ...                 |
| Influenza ...                                      | 93           | ...           | ...                  | ...                  | ...                   | ...                    | ...                    | ...                    | ...             | 26                    | 19                    | 14                    | 27                    | 1                       | ...                            | 3                   |
| Phthisis Pulmonalis ...                            | 14           | ...           | ...                  | ...                  | ...                   | ...                    | ...                    | ...                    | ...             | 3                     | 4                     | 2                     | 2                     | 7                       | ...                            | ...                 |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases                         | 1            | ...           | ...                  | ...                  | ...                   | ...                    | ...                    | ...                    | ...             | ...                   | ...                   | 1                     | ...                   | ...                     | ...                            | ...                 |
| Cancer ...   | 18           | ...           | ...                  | ...                  | ...                   | ...                    | ...                    | ...                    | ...             | 2                     | 2                     | 8                     | 5                     | 1                       | ...                            | ...                 |
| Meningitis ...                                     | 1            | ...           | ...                  | ...                  | ...                   | ...                    | ...                    | ...                    | ...             | ...                   | 1                     | ...                   | ...                   | ...                     | ...                            | ...                 |
| Heart Diseases ...                                 | 25           | ...           | ...                  | ...                  | ...                   | ...                    | ...                    | ...                    | ...             | 7                     | 6                     | 4                     | 5                     | 3                       | ...                            | ...                 |
| Bronchitis ...                                     | 22           | 4             | 1                    | 3                    | ...                   | 1                      | 3                      | 8                      | 12              | 13                    | 1                     | 2                     | 3                     | 3                       | ...                            | ...                 |
| Pneumonia ...                                      | 35           | 7             | 4                    | 5                    | 3                     | ...                    | 4                      | 9                      | 3               | 18                    | 2                     | 6                     | 6                     | 3                       | ...                            | ...                 |
| Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ...           | 2            | ...           | ...                  | ...                  | ...                   | ...                    | 1                      | 1                      | ...             | 1                     | ...                   | ...                   | 1                     | 2                       | ...                            | ...                 |
| Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...                        | 9            | 7             | ...                  | 1                    | ...                   | ...                    | ...                    | ...                    | 1               | 5                     | ...                   | 2                     | ...                   | ...                     | ...                            | ...                 |
| Appendicitis ...                                   | 4            | ...           | ...                  | ...                  | 3                     | 1                      | ...                    | ...                    | ...             | 1                     | ...                   | 2                     | 1                     | ...                     | ...                            | ...                 |
| Cirrhosis ...                                      | 2            | ...           | ...                  | ...                  | ...                   | ...                    | ...                    | ...                    | ...             | 1                     | 1                     | ...                   | ...                   | ...                     | ...                            | ...                 |
| Nephritis ...                                      | 5            | 1             | ...                  | ...                  | ...                   | ...                    | ...                    | ...                    | 4               | 1                     | 1                     | ...                   | 2                     | 1                       | ...                            | ...                 |
| Disease and Accidents of Pregnancy and Parturition | 4            | ...           | ...                  | 1                    | ...                   | ...                    | 3                      | 1                      | ...             | 1                     | 1                     | 1                     | ...                   | 1                       | ...                            | ...                 |
| Congenital Debility ...                            | 2            | 1             | ...                  | ...                  | ...                   | ...                    | ...                    | ...                    | ...             | 2                     | ...                   | ...                   | ...                   | ...                     | ...                            | ...                 |
| Premature Birth ...                                | 5            | 5             | ...                  | ...                  | ...                   | ...                    | ...                    | ...                    | ...             | 3                     | ...                   | 2                     | ...                   | ...                     | ...                            | ...                 |
| Malformation ...                                   | 3            | 3             | ...                  | 1                    | ...                   | ...                    | ...                    | ...                    | ...             | 2                     | ...                   | ...                   | ...                   | ...                     | ...                            | ...                 |
| Violence ...                                       | 12           | 1             | ...                  | 1                    | 2                     | ...                    | 2                      | 3                      | 3               | 6                     | 4                     | ...                   | 2                     | ...                     | ...                            | ...                 |
| Suicide ...  | 2            | ...           | ...                  | ...                  | 1                     | 3                      | ...                    | 2                      | ...             | 12                    | 11                    | 11                    | 14                    | 7                       | ...                            | ...                 |
| Other Defined Diseases                             | 55           | 2             | 2                    | ...                  | ...                   | ...                    | 6                      | 16                     | 25              | 9                     | 1                     | 3                     | 8                     | ...                     | ...                            | ...                 |
| Diseases Ill-defined ...                           | 21           | ...           | 1                    | ...                  | ...                   | ...                    | 2                      | 2                      | 16              | ...                   | 1                     | ...                   | ...                   | ...                     | ...                            | ...                 |
| Totals   | 350          | 38            | 16                   | 18                   | 20                    | 22                     | 66                     | 86                     | 84              | 122                   | 54                    | 60                    | 82                    | 32                      | 15                             | 3                   |

**TABLE II.**  
Deaths of Infants arranged under Ages, Causes, and Sub-districts.

| Causes of Death.       | Under 1 Month.  |              |              |              | Total Deaths<br>under 1 month | 1 month to<br>3 months | 3 months to<br>6 months | 6 months to<br>9 months | 9 months to<br>1 year | Total Deaths<br>under 1 year | Sub-districts. |          |          |          |            |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
|                        | Under<br>1 week | 1 to 2 weeks | 2 to 3 weeks | 3 to 4 weeks |                               |                        |                         |                         |                       |                              | Chorley.       | Brindle. | Croston. | Leyland. | Rivington. |
| Measles ..             | ..              | ..           | ..           | ..           | ..                            | ..                     | ..                      | 2                       | 3                     | 2                            | 2              | ..       | 1        | ..       | ..         |
| Whooping Cough ..      | ..              | ..           | ..           | ..           | ..                            | 1                      | ..                      | 1                       | 2                     | 2                            | 1              | ..       | ..       | 1        | ..         |
| Influenza ..           | ..              | 1            | ..           | ..           | 1                             | ..                     | 1                       | ..                      | ..                    | 2                            | ..             | ..       | ..       | 2        | ..         |
| Bronchitis ..          | ..              | ..           | ..           | 1            | 2                             | 2                      | ..                      | ..                      | ..                    | 4                            | 3              | ..       | ..       | ..       | 1          |
| Pneumonia ..           | ..              | ..           | ..           | ..           | ..                            | 2                      | 5                       | 2                       | ..                    | 7                            | 4              | ..       | 1        | 2        | ..         |
| Enteritis ..           | ..              | ..           | ..           | ..           | ..                            | 2                      | 4                       | 1                       | ..                    | 7                            | 4              | ..       | 2        | ..       | 1          |
| Congenital Debility .. | ..              | ..           | ..           | ..           | ..                            | 1                      | ..                      | ..                      | ..                    | 1                            | 1              | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..         |
| Premature Birth ..     | 2               | ..           | 2            | 1            | 5                             | ..                     | ..                      | ..                      | ..                    | 5                            | 3              | ..       | 2        | ..       | ..         |
| Malformation ..        | ..              | 1            | 1            | ..           | 2                             | 1                      | ..                      | ..                      | ..                    | 3                            | 2              | ..       | ..       | 1        | ..         |
| Other Causes ..        | 1               | ..           | ..           | ..           | 1                             | 1                      | 1                       | 1                       | ..                    | 4                            | 3              | ..       | ..       | 1        | ..         |
| Totals ..              | 3               | 2            | 4            | 2            | 11                            | 8                      | 11                      | 4                       | 4                     | 38                           | 23             | ..       | 6        | 7        | 2          |



**TABLE III.**

Notifications from each Township of Infectious and Tuberculous Cases.

| Townships.       | INFECTIOUS DISEASES. |                |             |             |                |         |                                | TUBERCULOSIS.        |                             |             |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
|                  | Measles.             | Scarlet Fever. | Erysipelas. | Diphtheria. | Typhoid Fever. | Totals. | Removed to Isolation Hospital. | Phthisis Pulmonalis. | Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. | Sanatorium. |
| Charnock Richard | 3                    | ...            | ...         | ...         | ...            | 3       | ...                            | ...                  | ...                         | ...         |
| Coppull ...      | 160                  | 15             | ...         | ...         | 5              | 180     | 19                             | 4                    | 7                           | 3           |
| Duxbury ...      | 2                    | ...            | ...         | ...         | ...            | 2       | ..                             | ...                  | ...                         | ...         |
| Heapey ...       | ...                  | ...            | .           | ...         | ...            | ...     | ...                            | ...                  | ...                         | ...         |
| Welch Whittle    | 2                    | ...            | ...         | ...         | ...            | 2       | ...                            | ...                  | ...                         | ...         |
| Brindle ...      | 7                    | ...            | ...         | ...         | ...            | 7       | ...                            | 5                    | ...                         | ...         |
| Hoghton ...      | 2                    | ...            | ...         | ...         | ...            | 2       | ...                            | ...                  | ...                         | ...         |
| Wheelton ...     | 6                    | ...            | ...         | ...         | ...            | 6       | ...                            | 1                    | ..                          | ...         |
| Bretherton ...   | 2                    | 3              | ...         | ...         | ...            | 5       | 1                              | 1                    | 1                           | ...         |
| Eccleston ...    | 6                    | ...            | ...         | 2           | ...            | 8       | 2                              | 1                    | ...                         | ...         |
| Heskin ...       | 12                   | ...            | ...         | ...         | ...            | 12      | ...                            | 1                    | ...                         | 1           |
| Mawdesley ...    | 4                    | ...            | ...         | 1           | ...            | 5       | ...                            | 1                    | ..                          | 1           |
| Ulnes Walton ... | ...                  | 1              | ...         | ...         | ...            | 1       | 1                              | ...                  | ...                         | ...         |
| Clayton-le-Woods | 2                    | ...            | ...         | 1           | ...            | 3       | ...                            | ...                  | ...                         | ...         |
| Cuerden ...      | 1                    | ...            | ...         | ...         | ...            | 1       | ...                            | 2                    | ...                         | 2           |
| Euxton ...       | 8                    | ...            | ...         | ...         | ...            | 8       | ...                            | 1                    | ...                         | ...         |
| Whittle-le-Woods | ...                  | ...            | ...         | ...         | ..             | ...     | ...                            | 4                    | ...                         | 2           |
| Anglezarke ...   | ...                  | ...            | ...         | ...         | ...            | ...     | ...                            | ...                  | ...                         | ..          |
| Anderton ...     | 5                    | 6              | 1           | ...         | ...            | 12      | 6                              | 1                    | 1                           | ...         |
| Heath Charnock   | 2                    | ...            | 2           | ...         | 1              | 5       | 1                              | 2                    | ...                         | ...         |
| Rivington ...    | ...                  | ...            | ...         | ...         | ...            | ...     | ...                            | ...                  | ...                         | ..          |
| Totals ...       | 224                  | 25             | 3           | 4           | 6              | 262     | 30                             | 24                   | 9                           | 9           |

**TABLE IV.**

**Sanitary Defects Removed and Nuisances Abated.**

| TOWNSHIP.         | Blocked Drains<br>Cleared, etc. | Water Supplies<br>Analysed. | Defective Privies<br>and Ashpits<br>Remedied. | Offensive<br>Accumulations<br>Removed. | Other Nuisances | TOTALS. |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|-----------------|---------|
| Anderton ...      | 4                               | 2                           | ...   | 6                                      | 3               | 15      |
| Anglezarke ...    | ...                             | ...                         | ...   | ...                                    | 1               | 1       |
| Bretherton ...    | 2                               | ...                         | ...   | 1                                      | ...             | 3       |
| Brindle ...       | 3                               | 1                           | ...   | 2                                      | 4               | 10      |
| Charnock Richard  | 7                               | ...                         | ...   | 8                                      | 5               | 20      |
| Clayton-le-Woods  | 2                               | 1                           | 1   | 1                                      | 4               | 9       |
| Coppull ...       | 29                              | ...                         | 3   | 14                                     | 24              | 70      |
| Cuerden...        | ...                             | ..                          | ...   | 2                                      | 1               | 3       |
| Duxbury ...       | ...                             | ...                         | ...   | 3                                      | ...             | 3       |
| Eccleston ...     | 3                               | ...                         | ...   | ...                                    | 5               | 8       |
| Euxton ...        | 5                               | 2                           | 1   | 17                                     | 1               | 26      |
| Heapey ...        | 2                               | ...                         | ...   | ...                                    | ...             | 2       |
| Heath Charnock    | 10                              | 2                           | 1   | 7                                      | 1               | 21      |
| Heskin ...        | 1                               | ...                         | ...   | ...                                    | ...             | 1       |
| Hoghton ...       | 1                               | ...                         | ...   | 12                                     | ...             | 13      |
| Mawdesley ...     | 2                               | ...                         | 2   | 5                                      | ...             | 9       |
| Rivington ...     | ...                             | ..                          | ...   | ...                                    | 1               | 1       |
| Ulnes Walton ...  | 1                               | ...                         | ...   | 9                                      | ...             | 10      |
| Welch Whittle ... | 1                               | ...                         | ...   | ...                                    | ...             | 1       |
| Wheelton ...      | 4                               | ...                         | ...   | 7                                      | ...             | 11      |
| Whittle-le-Woods  | 8                               | ...                         | 5   | 10                                     | 22              | 45      |
| Totals ...        | 85                              | 8                           | 13  | 104                                    | 72              | 282     |

